

95 00621

Alternatives Program



Administered by
San Mateo County Probation Department

Chief Probation Officer
Gene A. Roh



WHAT IS THE ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM?

It is a drug and alcohol free, community based day treatment program designed to provide women with new cognitive and behavioral skills in an effort to reduce or eliminate their criminal conduct while positively impacting the women, their families and future generations. The program will provide Judges with a sentencing alternative for women who would otherwise be committed to the county jail.

WHO CAN REFER?

Only Municipal and Superior Court Judges.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

- ❖ Women 18 years or older
- ❖ San Mateo County Residents
- ❖ Stable housing
- ❖ Suspended County Jail Sentence
- ❖ Operative telephone
- ❖ Non-violent history
- ❖ Physically and mentally able to participate

WHAT IS THE LEVEL OF SUPERVISION?

Intensive supervision by the San Mateo County Probation Department. House arrest when not at the Alternatives Program or participating in approved activities.

- ❖ Subject to telephone calls and home visits after hours and week-ends.
- ❖ Some cases subject to mandated electronic monitoring.
- ❖ All participants subject to search and seizure and random chemical testing.



WHAT IS THE TIME COMMITMENT?

- ❖ Six months to one (1) year.
- ❖ Four to six months After Care.

During the first four to six months, all participants will be involved in an individualized in-house treatment program from 9:00 A. M. to 4:00 P.M., Monday through Friday. Participants cannot be employed during this phase. There will be week-end activities.

WHAT IS THE COST?

- ❖ *No cost to participants.*

The Program is funded for two years by a grant from the Peninsula Community Foundation, administered through the Criminal Justice Council of San Mateo County with additional funds provided by the San Mateo County Probation Department.



WHAT SERVICES ARE OFFERED?

- ❖ Cognitive and Behavior Skills
- ❖ Substance Abuse Treatment
- ❖ Upgrade Literacy Skills
- ❖ Job Search/Placement
- ❖ Parenting and Child Rearing Skills
- ❖ Child Care Referral Services
- ❖ Family Planning
- ❖ Nutritional Management
- ❖ Financial Management
- ❖ Self Esteem Building
- ❖ Domestic Violence Seminars
- ❖ Individual Counseling
- ❖ Peer Counseling
- ❖ Women's Health Issues
- ❖ Provide on-site Community Services



WHAT ARE THE GOALS & OBJECTIVES?

The program goals are to positively impact the women, their families and future generations by fostering healthy and productive lives that are free of criminal activity and/or dependency on any public agency.

The program is built on a cognitive treatment theory for working with offenders towards rehabilitation. The premise of the program is that offenders think and resolve problems and issues in a different manner than non-offenders. The focus is to shift the thinking pattern of the participants to a pro-social pattern. They will learn certain critical social skills that will help them in their problem solving abilities, thus reducing many of the crisis and conflicts that seem to plague this population. The program will provide the women with viable alternatives within their own life skills for a lifestyle free of the criminal justice system.